

and individually. Consultations are expected to be resumed in early September, 1982.

(d) India is in touch with like minded countries, on the subject, with a view to securing early launching of global negotiations.

Smuggling of Gold

4462. SHRI P. K. KODLYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the smuggling of gold into the country in the recent period ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the smuggling of gold into the country ; and

(c) what is the total quantity of contraband gold seized in the last five years and the value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :

(a) and (c). According to reports received by Government, gold continues to be sensitive to being smuggled into the country on account of the increasing differential between the international and domestic price of the metal.

The total quantity and value of gold seized by the Customs authorities during the period 1978 to 1982 (upto May) is given below :—

Year	Approximate quantity of gold seized (in Kgs.)	Approximate value (Rs. in lakhs)
1978	220	153
1979	134	136
1980	85	130
1981	152	254
1982 (upto May)	559	920

(b) The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been strengthened. The Customs authorities have been alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling of gold into the country.

Post lying vacant in branches of Reserve Bank of India

4463. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :
PROF. RUP CHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) number of posts lying vacant in different branches of the Reserve Bank of India and since when ;

(b) whether Government are considering to fill up the vacancies immediately : and

(c) if so, when and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) As on 30th June, 1982, 278 posts of officers, 1071 Class III posts and 598 Class IV posts were vacant in different offices of Reserve Bank of India.

(b) and (c). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that it has not been possible to fill up the vacancies in the officers' cadre on account of writ petitions filed by the employees/employees' Association against direct recruitment and departmental promotional system in the bank. Since the matter is subjudice, no time limit for filling up the officers' posts can be determined at this stage.

In some of the offices of the bank, the process of filling up of vacancies in Class III is already in progress. The recruitment and

(b) The preventive and intelligence...
posting of Class III staff is dependent on the availability of staff in Class IV cadre, especially in Mazdoor Cadre. In some of the centres, recruitment of Mazdoors has been delayed pending sponsoring of suitable and sufficient number of candidates by the employment exchanges. At some offices, the Local Class IV Unions are also obstructing preparation of waiting list for Class IV employees on one pretext or the other. Despite this, the bank is making every effort to fill up the vacancies as quickly as possible.

Three man Jute Delegation to Australia and Japan

4464. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the three-man Jute delegation which went to Australia and Japan, with particular emphasis on recovering the lost markets for Indian Jute goods in those countries; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The delegation which visited Australia and Japan in March, 1982 for making an indepth assessment of the present market conditions in these countries have identified uncertainty in the shipment schedule to Australia and tariff and non-tariff barriers placed by Japan as the major inhibiting factors in the promotion export of jute goods to these countries. Some of the other important promotional measures suggested by the delegation are formulation of a

consortium approach for export of Carpet Backing Cloth to Australia, jointly with Bangladesh, subsidising export of cornsacks to Australia through STC by a consortium of mills, offering quality goods at prices competitive with Bangladesh, development of certain new products etc.

(b) Necessary follow-up actions in respect of all the findings and recommendations of the delegation have already been initiated.

New Cash Aid Norms

4465. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) reasons for delay in announcing the new cash aid norms finalised in the meeting of the Chairman and Secretaries of export Promotion Councils in February 1982; and

(b) when they will come into effect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Government have already announced that the scheme of cash compensatory support (CCS) will continue for a further period of three years from 1-4-1982. It has also been decided to undertake review of the existing rates of cash compensatory support. Pending such a review, rates of CCS on different commodities as on 31st March, 1982, have been continued till 30th September, 1982, except for cotton textile items, where the existing rates have been continued up to 31st December, 1982.